

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A registration device for a sheet material article handler, the registration device comprising:
 - a movable backstop configured to sequentially engage a leading edge portion of a sheet material article moving in a direction of movement of the sheet material article along a path of movement of the sheet material article in the sheet material article handler so as to register the sheet material article relative to the sheet material article handler; and
 - a driver configured to move the backstop along an arcuate path in the direction of movement of the sheet material article from a first position out of the path of movement to a second position in the path of movement.
2. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver is configured to move the backstop along the arcuate path to the second position so as to follow a trailing edge of the sheet material article as the sheet material article moves along the path of movement of the sheet material article.
3. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver is further configured to move the backstop further along the arcuate path from the second position to a third position out of the path of movement of the sheet material article.
4. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver is configured to rotate the backstop about an axis in a single angular direction from the first to the second to the third position.
5. The registration device as recited in claim 4 wherein the axis is disposed below the

path of movement of the sheet material article.

6. The registration device as recited in claim 4 wherein the axis is disposed above the path of movement of the sheet material article.

7. The registration device as recited in claim 4 wherein the axis is disposed on a movable table of the sheet material article handler.

8. The registration device as recited in claim 7 wherein the driver is configured to move the backstop along the arcuate path from the first position to the second position as the table is moving in a direction opposite the direction of movement of the sheet material article along the path of movement of the sheet material article.

9. The registration device as recited in claim 7 wherein the axis is capable of being repositioned relative to the table.

10. The registration device as recited in claim 9 wherein the sheet material article handler is a sheet material article trimmer and the movable table is a front trimmer table, the repositioning of the axis changing a distance between an engagement surface of the backstops and a knife of the front trimmer when the backstops are in the second position.

11. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the arcuate path is circular.

12. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the backstop includes an elongated member, the elongated member being disposed generally perpendicular to the path of movement of the sheet material article when the backstop is in the second position.

13. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver includes an intermittent drive mechanism configured to move the backstop along the arcuate path in synchronization with the moving of the sheet material article along the path of movement of the sheet material article.

14. The registration device as recited in claim 13 wherein the intermittent drive mechanism is driven from a main drive of the sheet material article handler.

15. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver includes a servo motor.

16. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the sheet material article handler is a sheet material article trimmer.

17. The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the sheet material article handler is a sheet material article printer.

18. A method for registering a sheet material article in a sheet material article handler, the method comprising:

sequentially engaging, using a movable backstop, a leading edge portion of a sheet material article moving in a direction of movement of the sheet material article along a path of movement of the sheet material article in the sheet material article handler so as to register the sheet material article relative to the sheet material article handler; and

moving the backstop along an arcuate path in the direction of movement of the sheet material article from a first position out of the path of movement to a second position in the path of movement using a driver.

[600.1181; A-03497; HEM 01/809]

19. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the moving along the arcuate path is performed so as to move the backstop to follow a trailing edge of the sheet material article as the sheet material article moves along the path of movement of the sheet material article and the backstop moves to the second position.

20. The method as recited in claim 18 further comprising moving the backstop further along the arcuate path from the second position to a third position out of the path of movement of the sheet material article using the driver.